

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04

COME-00 /092 W

-----131014Z 027231 /16

R 111230Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6612

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PFOR, PINR, LT, SF

SUBJECT: CALL ON PRIMIN JONATHAN: LESOTHO COMPLAINT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL

REF: MASERU 0030 (NOTAL)

1. PM JONATHAN THANKED US FOR USG SUPPORT AT THE RECENT MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER LESOTHO'S COMPLAINT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. HE EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE SUPPORT FROM ALL WESTERN COUNTRIES AND ALL THE OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. THE PM SAID SOUTH AFRICAN INFORMATION MEDIA ARE CONDUCTING A STRONG CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT THE GOL AND THE CASE IT HAD BROUGHT AGAINST SA IN THE SC. "WE ARE NOT LIARS", THE PM STATED. HE SAID HE WANTED TO EXPLAIN CAREFULLY THE GROUNDS FOR LESOTHO'S CASE AGAINST SA.

2. LESOTHO HAS A CUSTOMS UNION AGREEMENT AND A LABOR AGREEMENT WITH SA, HE BEGAN. UNDER THE LABOR AGREEMENT, 15 BORDER POSTS WERE NAMED FOR THE PASSAGE OF CITIZENS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. THREE OF THESE BORDER GATES HAVE COME INTO DISPUTE SINCE THE CREATION OF THE SO-CALLED TRANSKEI.

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3. THE PM SAID THE PROBLEM IS THAT SOUTH AFRICA REMOVED OFFICIALS AND EQUIPMENT FROM THREE BORDER POSTS NOW IN TRANSKEI THAT HAD FACILITATED THE SMOOTH FLOW OF TRAFFIC. THESE POSTS ARE NOW MANNED INSTEAD BY TRANSKEIAN OFFICIALS WHO DO NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION FOR TRAVEL TO SOUTH AFRICA. FURTHERMORE, HE MAINTAINED, LESOTHO HAS NO AGREEMENT

WHATSOEVER WITH TRANSKEI. THE PM CONDEMNED SPECIFICALLY THE TRANSKEI REQUIREMENT FOR PAYMENT OF A 50 CENT FEE FOR A VISA WHICH IS OFTEN RESTRICTED TO A PERIOD OF 2 HOURS. HE REITERATED THAT LESOTHO HAS NO AGREEMENT WITH TRANSKEI ON THE MATTER OF BORDER PASSAGE, VISAS, OR ANY OTHER QUESTION.

4. WARMING TO HIS SUBJECT, THE PM SAID THAT WHEN LESOTHO WAS A BRITISH PROTECTORATE, THE UK HAD ENTERED INTO MANY AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ON BEHALF OF THE THEN BASUTOLAND. AT INDEPENDENCE LESOTHO HAD ACCEPTED ALL THESE OBLIGATIONS AS ITS OWN. HE PERSONALLY HAD WRITTEN THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN THAT THE GOL ACCEPTED ALL OBLIGATIONS TO WHICH THE UK HAD SUBSCRIBED DURING LESOTHO'S COLONIAL PERIOD. HE HAD ALSO SENT NOTICES, ENCLOSING COPIES OF HIS LETTER TO THE SYG, TO ALL NATIONS WITH WHICH LESOTHO HAD SUCH AGREEMENTS. THESE SAME PROCEDURES SHOULD, HE MAINTAINED, HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY SOUTH AFRICA WITH RESPECT TO THE CREATION OF THE SO-CALLED TRANSKEI.

5. THE PM SAID LESOTHO DOES NOT RPT NOT MAINTAIN THAT TRANSKEI BORDER POSTS ARE BARRICADED; IT DOES MAINTAIN THAT THE COLLECTION OF A VISA FEE BY AN AUTHORITY NOT PARTY TO THE SA/LESOTHO LABOR AGREEMENT AND CUSTOMS UNION AGREEMENT IS AN ACT "TANTAMOUNT TO CLOSURE OF THE BORDER POSTS" . HE REPEATED THE WORD "TANTAMOUNT". THE PM SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED FONMIN MOLAPO TO INFORM PRETORIA OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIONS TO THE SITUATION AT THE THREE BORDER POSTS IN QUESTION. PRETORIA REPLIED THAT IT HAD "NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SITUATION" AND THAT THE GOL SHOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT OF TRANSKEI. LESOTHO TOLD PRETORIA IN TURN THAT IT DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF

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TRANSKEI AND THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOL WOULD BE OBLIGED TO TAKE ITS CASE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

6. THE PM SAID HE WAS RELATING THIS TO COUNTER THE POWERFUL MEDIA PROPAGANDA OF SOUTH AFRICA AGAINST WHICH LESOTHO HAS LITTLE DEFENSE. HE SAID WE COULD GO TO QACHA'S NEK AND RAMA'S GATE AND SEE FOR OURSELVES. "WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE." HE SAID THAT THE MINERS FROM THE QACHA'S NEK AREA NOW MAKE THEIR WAY NORTH ALONG THE BROKEN TRACKS IN THE MOUNTAIN VALLEYS TO MOKHOTLONG ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE COUNTRY FROM WHENCE THEY ARE FLOWN TO LADYSMITH IN THE REPUBLIC. "GO SEE FOR YOURSELF. THE SOUTH AFRICANS CAN COME TOO"

NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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